

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated May 21, 2003, applicants inadvertently filed a wrong version of our response. Applicants apologize for such mistake. Claims 1-11 and 14-20 are active in this application, of which claim 1, 4 and 11 are independent. Claims 12 and 13 are herein cancelled.

No new matters are added by this Amendment. Based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that the subject matter of claim 13 is allowable if rewritten to include the subject matter of the independent claim and intervening claim. Applicants in response have combined the subject matter of claim 13 and claim 12 into independent claim 11. Further, Applicants have added the subject matter of claims 12 and 13 into independent claims 1 and 4.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The indicated allowable subject matter of claim 13 and intervening claim 12 has been incorporated into independent claims 1, 4, and 11. Since all dependent claims depend from allowable respective independent claims, applicant submits that the dependent claims recite patentable subject matter and are also allowable. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections and pass all remaining claims 1-11 and 14-20 to issuance.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, claims 1-11 and 14-20 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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